

## “Extra-Pair of Hands” Concept

The Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services is issuing this guideline for out-of-hospital emergency care providers when using assistive personnel as their “extra-pair of hands”. The purpose of this guideline is to give direction to the out-of-hospital emergency care provider when he/she deems it necessary to request assistance from other non-licensed/certified health care providers in rendering emergency care.

An assistive person means a firefighter, law enforcement officer, ambulance driver or any other available person who is requested to provide assistance in an emergency and who is **not** licensed/certified as an out-of-hospital emergency care provider or any health care provider.

When such assistance is needed an out-of- hospital emergency care provider may use this extra pair of hands if:

- Assistive person is physically present and in the same proximity or visual field as the out-of-hospital emergency care provider.
- Out-of-hospital emergency care provider instructs and directs the activity that the assistive person is to perform.
- **Ultimate responsibility for assessment, care, and treatment remains with the out-of-hospital emergency care provider.**
- **The activity provided by the assistive person does not require such person to exercise knowledge of the nature or to the degree required to initiate, modify or discontinue the emergency care.**
- **The activity provided by the assistive person does not require such person to assess the condition of the patient.**

Examples of activities an assistive person may perform include but are not limited to:

- Assisting with lifting a patient
- Holding an IV bag
- Spiking an IV bag
- Applying pressure to a wound
- Placing straps on transport boards
- Pumping up a vacuum splint
- Assisting with log rolling
- Holding emesis basin
- Obtaining equipment

When an out-of-hospital emergency care provider uses an “extra pair of hands”, he/she must remember:

- The out-of-hospital emergency care provider is accountable for the emergency treatment being provided.
- The out-of-hospital emergency care provider cannot delegate to the assistive person the performance of any skills that requires EMS certification.
- The ultimate responsibility for identification of emergency care must remain with the out-of-hospital emergency care provider.
- No tasks may be given to an assistive person that will cause injury or harm to the patient.